

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-window display system comprising:
a plurality of window display sections that each
5 display data;
operation panel window display sections displaying
operation panel windows that operate said window
display sections;
a selecting section that selects one of said
10 window display sections; and
a control section that is responsive to selection
of one of said window display sections by said
selecting section, changes sizes of said window display
sections based on an order of selection by said
15 selecting section.
2. A multi-window display system as claimed in
claim 1, wherein said control section determines
display positions and sizes of said window display
sections and said operation panel display sections such
20 that said selected one of said window display sections
does not overlap with any of said window display
sections other than said selected one of said window
display sections or any of said operation panel window
display sections.
- 25 3. A multi-window display system as claimed in
claim 1, wherein said control section determines a
display position and size of said window display

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sections other than said selected one of said window display sections based on a display position and size of said selected one of said window display sections.

4. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a storage device that stores an order of display precedence for and a history of selection of said window display sections.

5. A multi-window display system comprising:
a plurality of window display sections that each display data;

a plurality of operation panel window display sections that display a plurality of operation panel windows having operating buttons for operating said window display sections;

a selecting section that selects one of said window display sections; and

a control section that changes a size of one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to said selected one of said window display sections in accordance with a changing of a size of said selected one of said window display sections.

6. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said control section changes sizes of said operating buttons of said operation panel window display sections in accordance with the changing of the size of said selected one of said window display

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sections.

7. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said control section changes numbers of said operating buttons of said operation panel
5 window display sections in accordance with the changing of the size of said selected one of said window display sections.

8. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said control section changes display
10 positions and sizes of all of said window display sections and operation panel window display sections that are being displayed, in accordance with the changing of the size of said selected one of said window display sections.

15 9. A multi-window display method comprising:

a first display step of displaying a plurality of pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

a second display step of displaying operation
20 panel windows for operating said window display sections in operation panel window display sections;

a selection step of selecting one of said window display sections; and

a control step of changing sizes of said window
25 display sections based on an order of selection by said selecting section, in response to selection of one of said window display sections by said selection step.

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10. A multi-window display method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said control step comprises determining display positions and sizes of said window display sections and said operation panel

5 display sections such that said selected one of said window display sections does not overlap with any of said window display sections other than said selected one of said window display sections or any of said operation panel window display sections.

10 11. A multi-window display method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said control step comprises determining a display position and size of said window display sections other than said selected one of said window display sections based on a display position and
15 size of said selected one of said window display sections.

12. A multi-window display method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a storage step of storing an order of display precedence for and a history of
20 selection of said window display sections.

13. A multi-window display method comprising:

a first display step of displaying a plurality of pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

25 a second display step of displaying a plurality of operation panel windows having operating buttons for operating said window display sections in a plurality

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of operation panel window display sections;

a selection step of selecting one of said window display sections; and

a control step of changing a size of one of said
5 operation panel window display sections corresponding
to said selected one of said window display sections in
accordance with a changing of a size of said selected
one of said window display sections.

14. A multi-window display method as claimed in
10 claim 13, wherein, in said control step, sizes of said
operating buttons of said operation panel window
display sections are changed in accordance with the
changing of the size of said selected one of said
window display sections.

15 15. A multi-window display method as claimed in
claim 13, wherein, in said control step, numbers of
said operating buttons of said operation panel window
display sections are changed in accordance with the
changing of the size of said selected one of said
20 window display sections.

16. A multi-window display method as claimed in
claim 13, wherein said control step comprises changing
display positions and sizes of all of said window
display sections and operation panel window display
25 sections that are being displayed, in accordance with
the changing of the size of said selected one of said
window display sections.

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17. A storage medium storing a program that is executable by a computer for implementing a multi-window display method comprising:

5 a first display step of displaying a plurality of pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

a second display step of displaying operation panel windows for operating said window display sections in operation panel window display sections;

10 a selection step of selecting one of said window display sections; and

a control step of changing sizes of said window display sections based on an order of selection by said selecting section, in response to selection of one of
15 said window display sections by said selection step.

18. A storage medium storing a program that is executable by a computer for implementing a multi-window display method comprising:

a first display step of displaying a plurality of
20 pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

a second display step of displaying a plurality of operation panel windows having operating buttons for operating said window display sections in a plurality
25 of operation panel window display sections;

a selection step of selecting one of said window display sections; and

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a control step of changing a size of one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to said selected one of said window display sections in accordance with a changing of a size of said selected one of said window display sections.

19. A multi-window display system comprising:

a plurality of window display sections that each display data;

operation panel window display sections that display operation panel windows for operating said window display sections;

a selecting section that selects one of said window display sections;

a movement direction indicating section that indicates a direction of movement of said one of said window display sections selected by said selecting section; and

a control section that is responsive to indication of the direction of movement of said selected one of said window display sections by said movement direction indicating section, for moving said selected one of said window display sections in the indicated direction of movement and displaying said selected one of said window display sections at an enlarged size.

20. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 19, wherein, when one of said window display sections has been selected by said selecting section,

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said control section carries out control such that at least one of said window display sections other than said one of said window display sections selected by said selecting section are displayed so as not to
5 overlap with said one of said window display sections selected by said selecting section.

21. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 19, wherein, when one of said window display sections has been selected by said selecting section,
10 said control section displays said one of said window display sections selected by said selecting section at an enlarged size.

22. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 21, wherein, when said one of said window display sections displayed at said enlarged size is moved in
15 said indicated direction of movement, said control section displays said one of said window display sections displayed at said enlarged size at maximum size.

20 23. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 21, wherein, when said one of said window display sections displayed at said enlarged size is moved in said indicated direction of movement, said control section displays said operation panel window display
25 sections in a region not occupied by said window display sections.

24. A multi-window display system comprising:

a plurality of window display sections that each display data;

operation panel window display sections that display a plurality of operation panels each
5 corresponding to one of said window display sections;

a selecting section that selects one of said window display sections or one of said operation panel window display sections; and

a control section that is responsive to selection
10 of one of said window display sections by said selecting section, for semi-transparently displaying at least one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to at least one of said window display sections other than said one of said window
15 display sections selected by said selecting section.

25. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 24, wherein, when another one of said operation panel window display sections has been selected by said selecting section following selection of said one of
20 said operation panel window display sections, said control section changes display of one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to said another one of said window display sections from semi-transparent display to non-transparent
25 display.

26. A multi-window display system as claimed in claim 24, wherein, when one of said operation panel

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window display sections has been selected by said selecting section, said control section displays said selected one of said operation panel window display sections non-transparently.

5 27. A multi-window display method comprising:

 a first display step of displaying a plurality of pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

 a second display step of displaying operation
10 panel windows for operating said window display sections in operation panel window display sections;

 a selecting step of selecting one of said window display sections;

 a movement direction indicating step of indicating
15 a direction of movement of said selected one of said window display sections; and

 a control step of moving, in response to indication of the direction of movement of said selected one of said window display sections by said
20 movement direction indicating section, said selected one of said window display sections in the indicated direction of movement and displaying said selected one of said window display sections at an enlarged size.

 28. A multi-window display method as claimed in
25 claim 27, wherein, when one of said window display sections has been selected in said selecting step, then in said control step, control is carried out such that

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at least one of said window display sections other than
said one of said window display sections selected in
said selecting step are displayed so as not to overlap
with said one of said window display sections selected
5 in said selecting step.

29. A multi-window display method as claimed in
claim 27, wherein, when one of said window display
sections has been selected in said selecting step, then
in said control step, said one of said window display
10 sections selected in said selecting step is displayed
at an enlarged size.

30. A multi-window display method as claimed in
claim 29, wherein, when said one of said window display
sections displayed at said enlarged size is moved in
15 said indicated direction of movement, then in said
control step, said one of said window display sections
displayed at said enlarged size is displayed at maximum
size.

31. A multi-window display method as claimed in
20 claim 29, wherein, when said one of said window display
sections displayed at said enlarged size is moved in
said indicated direction of movement, then in said
control step, said operation panel window display
sections are displayed in a region not occupied by said
25 window display sections.

32. A multi-window display method comprising:
a first display step of displaying a plurality of

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pieces of data in a plurality of window display sections;

a second display step of displaying a plurality of operation panels each corresponding to one of said window display sections in operation panel window display sections;

a selecting step of selecting one of said window display sections or one of said operation panel window display sections; and

10 a control step of semi-transparently displaying, in response to selection of one of said window display sections by said selecting step, at least one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to at least one of said window display sections other
15 than said one of said window display sections selected by said selecting section.

33. A multi-window display method as claimed in claim 32, wherein, when another one of said operation panel window display sections has been selected by said
20 selecting step following selection of said one of said operation panel window display sections, then in said control step, display of one of said operation panel window display sections corresponding to said another one of said window display sections is changed from
25 semi-transparent display to non-transparent display.

34. A multi-window display method as claimed in claim 32, wherein, when one of said operation panel

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window display sections has been selected, then in said control step, said selected one of said operation panel window display sections is displayed non-transparently.

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